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STUDY OF JUVENILE OFFENDER

ment from which these inmates come is absolutely necessary for an understanding of the contributing causes of their downfall. The field workers would furnish this information. In a large number of cases a return to the same environment would simply mean a repetition of the violation. A recognition of the social pathology of the inmate would lead to a prognosis of reformation only in a controlled environment. An institution should be known by the result of its work. At present we have little opportunity to check up on these results and less chance to provide for the paroled inmates amidst promising conditions." * * *

The Study of the Juvenile Offender in the Kansas Industrial School.—The following is taken from the seventeenth biennial report of the Industrial School for Boys at Topeka, Kansas. The report covers the two years ending June 30, 1914. The extract below shows the scope of the work that is being done in the Kansas institution in the individual study of boys:

"Reference has been made in former reports of this institution to the importance of an intimate study of individual differences among the boys committed to the school and to the fact that the problem of the juvenile delinquent is the problem, in great measure, of the backward child. An effort has been made to apply this view of the problem, and through the coöperation of the Department of Education of the State University, to introduce a scientific and systematic study of the individual boy as he comes to school. This has been done in connection with the Binet tests which have been conducted during the period. Arrangements have already been made to extend the scope of these studies during the coming year whereby a more extended psychological diagnosis will be made of each boy. During the last few months the experiment has been made of reporting to the parents of each boy the results of our examination with our diagnosis of the causes of the boy's waywardness and suggesting the manner of the parents' coöperation. The results have been fairly satisfactory and it is proposed to give the plan a further trial.

"The study of individual differences of the deviating child will disclose a variety of types. A few are here given for the purpose of illustrating, in briefest outline, the method and scope of these studies.

"*A. B.—Fifteen years of age.* Mentally this boy is about ten years of age; that is, he has the memory, the imagination and the perception of a boy of this age. He has a good store of common sense, a good power of attention and the motor control that one would expect in a ten-year-old boy. His condition is due almost entirely to pre-natal conditions, being clearly a case of arrested development. His moral status is in keeping with his physical and mental condition. He can never become a normal child and will probably remain a fit subject for institutional care, although there is a possibility of improvement under proper training. Had the boy's condition been discovered and intelligently treated in early life, and had he been given the advantages of the kindergarten, his physical, mental and moral condition would have been greatly benefited.

Some years ago this child was injured about the head in an accident, and the mother, seeking some cause for the child's defectiveness, attributed his shortcomings to this fact, but no evidence of such a source of the boy's retardation could be found.

"*C. D.—Fourteen years of age.* This case represents the type of a vigorous youth, at the adolescent period, rebelling against the injudicious restraints of an over-zealous mother. The companionship of the father instead of the nagging of the mother would have reclaimed this boy.

Mentally the boy tested normal. The difficulty lay in his lack of normal emotional development. His imagery was good but narrow in its range. He lacked imagination and was careless in his perception and observation. His sense of justice was undeveloped and his moral standard was that of not being found out. In manner he was reserved and seclusive. He had not been allowed to do the things that a boy loves to do. For this reason, when freed from restraint, he went beyond bounds, because his power of inhibition was weak and his moral standard was not high enough to hold him in check. He had not been required to do the things a boy ought to do. His own personality had not been developed because it had been overshadowed by the mother's personality. Inci-

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dentally he was troubled with adenoid growth and diseased tonsils, and was slightly defective in sight and hearing.

"*E. F.—Sixteen years of age.* Father dead, mother and one brother, eleven years old, living. Mother works for a living. The boy lived with his grandfather on a farm, but did not like farming and ran away. Chewed tobacco and smoked a pipe and cigarettes. At first stole money from his home, later from other people.

"Mentally this boy was eight years old. His mind as a whole was dull and stupid. Perception and attention were fair but memory and imagination were undeveloped. His judgments were inaccurate and subject to change with a new suggestion. Utterly unreliable.

"This boy lacked the finer sentiments and refinements of the emotional life. Ethical, esthetic and religious impulses were undeveloped. A case of moral degeneracy.

"The above are but three of many types, each one of which displays some form of arrested or retarded development and confirms the complexity of the problem of delinquency among children."

R. H. G.

PAROLE—PROBATION.

A Parole Record.—The accompanying pages are a portion of a "calendar" or parole record prepared at the Reformatory for Women for the Board of Parole of the institution. It was prepared by Mrs. Jessie Hodder, superintendent of the reformatory, and was presented at the St. Paul meeting of the American Association in October, 1914.

The first page is the index to the entire parole record for the given month; the histories which follow are given as samples of the parole record as a whole.

They are compiled from the institution records (an outline of which will be shown at this meeting) by the Investigating Department of the institution.

A sincere effort is made to bring together all facts having a bearing on the probable causes, mental, physical and social, of the crime committed, and on the future outlook of the woman considered.

Each month a varying number of inmates (women) become eligible for parole under the terms of the indeterminate sentence. These women have earned through their conduct, industry and general development a right to a hearing by the Board of Parole.

The Board of Parole consists of the chairman and two lady members of the Board of Prison Commissioners. It holds its meetings at the reformatory as often as is necessary to give a just and detailed hearing to each applicant. The clerk of the institution is secretary of the Board of Parole.

There are present at the hearings the state parole agent, the resident physician, a field worker of the institution, a stenographer, the superintendent, the secretary, and, when necessary, any other officers of the institution whose experience with a given inmate will be helpful in a just estimate of her. There are invited to the meetings the judges of the committing courts, probation officers and others who have a constructive interest in the work.

Before the woman enters the room her history as given in the accompanying parole record is read aloud. She then appears and presents her case from her own point of view. She is aided by a sympathetic attitude from all present. Questions and answers are recorded by the stenographer. (The stenographic record is especially helpful if a parole is denied, in which case it may be reconsidered in four months; it is also helpful in case parole is granted but is later revoked.)

The woman is urged to speak freely to the board and tell her plans for the future and her belief about the past. She then withdraws from the hearing; the case is discussed and a vote taken; she is later informed of the board's decision.